

REMARKS

The Official Action rejects claims 1-6, 8-10, 14, 15, 17, 18, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,384,863 to Bronson (hereinafter "Bronson"). The Official Action further rejects claims 1-4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,970,265 to Schelling (hereinafter "Schelling"). Additionally, the Official Action rejects claims 1, 11, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 7,359,003 to Knighton (hereinafter "Knighton") and claims 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,549,237 to Inuma et al. (hereinafter "Inuma"). Finally, the Official Action rejects claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in view of the '863 patent and U.S. Patent 6,636,259 to Anderson (hereinafter "Anderson") and claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in view of the Knighton and Anderson. As described in detail below, the independent claim 1 has been amended to further patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the cited references, taken either individually or in any proper combination. Based on the amendment to independent claim 1, claims 19 and 23 have been canceled. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the present application and allowance of the amended set of claims is respectfully requested.

Embodiments of the present invention generally relate to a mobile communication station including a camera and a body that comprises two portions that may be mechanically coupled to one another by a linkage that permits rotation of one of the portions relative to the other. One portion may have a grip for being gripped by a user during use of the communication station. The grip may have a first compact configuration and a second configuration in which the grip is expanded relative to the first configuration. When the grip is in the second, expanded configuration, the grip improves the user's grasp on the mobile communication station.

Bronson discloses a digital camera that includes two sections: a hand grip 100 and a lens assembly 200. The hand grip 100 is connected to the lens assembly 200 by a telescoping and rotating device 160. As illustrated in Figs. 1A and 1B (reproduced below), the hand grip 100 and the lens assembly 200 may be moved from the arrangement illustrated in Fig. 1A to the extended

arrangement illustrated in Fig. 1B. When taking a picture, a user may raise the lens assembly 200 to eye level while at the same time keeping the hand that is holding the hand grip 100 at elbow level.

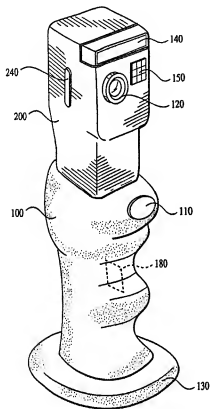


FIG. 1A

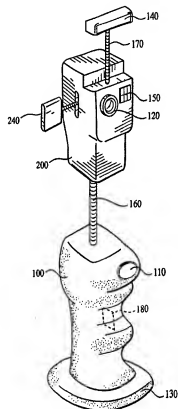
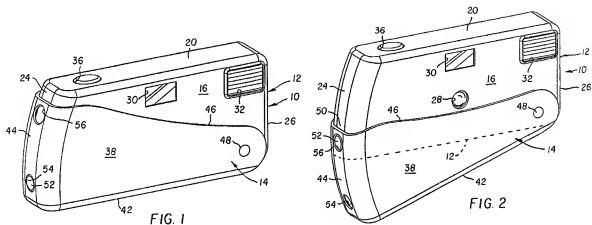


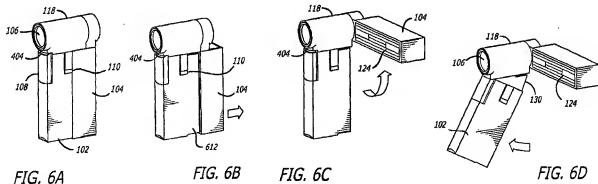
FIG. 1B

Schelling discloses a pocketable camera 10 that includes a housing 12 and a cover handle 14 as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, reproduced below. The housing 12 includes a lens opening 28, a viewfinder opening 30 and a flash emission opening 32. The cover handle defines a cavity 46 and is connected to the housing 12 by a pivot pin 48. The pivot pin 48 permits movement of the cover handle 14 between a folded position (shown in Fig. 1) where the housing is positioned within the cavity, to an extended position where the housing 12 is only partially within the cavity

(shown in Fig.2).



The first embodiment of Knighton, reproduced below, discloses a camera which includes three main sub-assemblies: a grip 102, a display assembly 104, and an optic sub-assembly including a lens 106. As illustrated in Fig. 6a to 6d, the camera may be manipulated by a user into a variety of physical configurations. Fig. 6a illustrates a compact configuration where actuation of a release 110 causes the display assembly 104 to transition away from the grip 102 (Fig 6b). The display 104 is then rotatable relative to the grip 102 and to the optic assembly (Fig 6c). The grip 102 is also movable relative to the optic assembly and the display assembly 104 as it may be tilted backwards and forwards (Fig. 6d).



The second embodiment of Knighton illustrated in Figs 10 and 11 disclose a digital camera with a binocular display that resides within a compact housing 1002. The housing 1002

defines a pair of lobe hand grips 1028 that may be coated with an elastomeric material to provide improved grip for the user. A visor 1010 is coupled to the housing 1020 to rest on a user's forehead when the device is held by a user. The visor 1010 may be hinged to the housing 1002 and may pivot between an open position and a closed position.

Inuma discloses an image sensing apparatus that includes a liquid crystal display 3 as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The liquid crystal display 3 is rotatable from a folded state (Fig. 1) to a position where the screen 3a can be seen directly (Fig. 2)

Claim Rejections of 1-6, 8-10, 14, 15, 17, 18, and 22 in view of Bronson

The Examiner states in the rejection of claim 1 in view of Bronson that "The examiner submits that instructions executed by the microprocessor can be broadly interpreted to be communication." Applicant contends that the Examiner's interpretation is incorrect as claim 1 recites "a communication station" (emphasis added) and not "a communication microprocessor". One of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the word "communication" recited in claim 1 relates to the mobile station and that the mobile station is able to communicate with other mobile stations. This interpretation is supported in the specification on page 9, third paragraph.

None of the prior art references disclose "a mobile communication station including a camera and having a body ... the body comprising two portions which are mechanically coupled to each other by a linkage..., one of said portions having a grip for being gripped by a user during use of the communication station, the grip having a first compact configuration and a second configuration in which the grip is expanded relative to the first configuration to improve the grip of the user on the communication station when the grip is in the second expanded configuration" as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Branson merely discloses a digital camera that includes a hand grip 100 that may be moved to an extended arrangement relative to the lens assembly 200. The device of Branson does not have a handle that is expandable, moreover, the fixed handle device of Branson does not have a first configuration and second configuration, but rather the camera simply telescopes from the fixed handle between first and second positions as shown in Fig. 1A and 1B. Branson does

not teach, or suggest that the hand grip may be expanded as recited in amended independent claim 1; therefore claim 1 is patentable over Bronson. As the remainder of the rejected claims 2-6, 8-10, 14, 15, 17, 18, and 22 depend from independent claim 1, they are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claim Rejections of 1-4 and 7 in view of Schelling

Schelling merely discloses a pocketable camera 10 that includes a cover handle 14 that may be pivoted relative to the housing 12. Schelling does not teach or disclose that the cover handle may be expanded. The camera device of Schelling includes a cover housing that is pivoted from a first position to a second position, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. Schelling does not disclose a device having “a body that is relatively elongate about a first axis, the body comprising two portions which are mechanically coupled to each other by a linkage that permits rotation of one of the portions relative to the other about an axis substantially parallel to said first axis” (emphasis added) as recited in amended independent claim 1; therefore claim 1 is patentable over Schelling. As the remainder of the rejected claims 2-4 and 7 depend from independent claim 1, they are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claim Rejections of 1, 11, and 16 in view of Knighton

The first embodiment of Knighton merely discloses a grip 102 that is movable relative to the display assembly 104. The first embodiment of Knighton does not disclose that the grip may be expanded. Further, the camera device of Knighton does not disclose “a body that is relatively elongate about a first axis, the body comprising two portions which are mechanically coupled to each other by a linkage that permits rotation of one of the portions relative to the other about an axis substantially parallel to said first axis” (emphasis added) as recited in amended independent claim 1; therefore claim 1 is patentable over the first embodiment of Knighton. As the remainder of the rejected claims 11 and 16 depend from independent claim 1, they are patentable for at least the same reasons.

The second embodiment of Knighton merely discloses a binocular display digital camera that includes a visor 1010 which pivots between an open position and a closed position. The visor 1010 of Knighton is not a “grip” as recited in the claims as the “grip” is defined in claim 1 as “for being gripped by a user during use.” Further, the second embodiment of Knighton does not disclose that the visor may be expanded. As recited in column 6, lines 7-10, “The housing defines a pair of lobe hand grips 1028.” The hand grips of the second embodiment of Knighton do not have a first configuration and a second configuration as recited in amended independent claim 1, much less are the grips expandable in any configuration; therefore claim 1 is patentable over the second embodiment of Knighton.

Claim Rejections of 19, 20, and 21 in view of Inuma

Inuma merely discloses that the liquid crystal display 3 is rotatable from a folded state to an open state. The liquid crystal display cannot be interpreted as a grip, nor is it expandable, both elements of claim 1 of the present application. Further, the Examiner states “a body that is relatively elongate about a first axis, the body comprising two portions...which are mechanically coupled to each other by a linkage that permits rotation of one of the portions relative to the other about an axis substantially parallel to said first axis and prevents rotation of each portion relative to the other about other axes (The LCD can rotate along an axis that is perpendicular to the length of the device, but cannot rotate on an axes that are between 0 and 90 degrees with respect to the length of the device)” (emphasis added). As apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art, perpendicular and parallel cannot be interpreted to be the same. While claim 19 has been canceled, the limitations of claim 19 are incorporated into amended claim 1; therefore claim 1 is patentable over Inuma. As the remainder of the rejected claims 20 and 21 depend from independent claim 1, they are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claim Rejections of 12 and 13 in view of Bronson, Knighton, and Anderson

As indicated above, the present application is patentable over Bronson and the combination with Anderson does not correct the deficiencies noted above; therefore, claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom are patentable over Bronson and Anderson. Further, as argued above, the present application is patentable over Knighton and the combination with Anderson does not correct the deficiencies noted above; therefore claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom are patentable over Knighton and Anderson.

CONCLUSION

None of the cited prior art teaches or suggests a mobile communication station having a body that comprises two portions and that one of the portions has an expandable grip. The cited prior art is only related to digital cameras and none of the cited references disclose a mobile communication station. The cited prior art teaches generally that the grip of a user may be improved by providing a movable grip or a grip that includes a material such as an elastomer (as disclosed in Knighton). There is no teaching or suggestion in any of the cited prior art that would motivate a person of ordinary skill in the art to adapt a digital camera to include the features of amended claim 1.

Further, since none of the cited prior art disclose providing an expandable grip, it would not be obvious or possible for a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of these documents and arrive at a device that includes the features of amended claim 1. Consequently, independent claim 1 is not obvious in view of any of the cited prior art documents when considered alone or in combination.

In view of the amendments and the remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the present claims of the present application are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

Appl. No.: 10/584,748
Amdt. dated August 3, 2009
Reply to Office Action of: April 1, 2009

The patentability of the independent claims has been argued as set forth above and thus Applicant will not take this opportunity to argue the merits of the rejection with regard to specific dependent claims. However, Applicant does not concede that the dependent claims are not independently patentable and reserves the right to argue the patentability of dependent claims at a later date if necessary.

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It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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